UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/915
6 November 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 6 NOVEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 4 November 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex, the letter of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

96-30745 (E) 071196 071196

/...

Annex

Letter dated 4 November from the Foreign Minister of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to call your attention to the announcement of the Government of the United States of America, made on 23 September 1996 by Nicholas Burns, official spokesman for the Department of State, that it had decided to grant United States identity documents to a first batch of 2,100 Iraqis. According to a report published in the Turkish newspaper Turkish Daily Times in its issue for 2 October 1996, the spokesman also announced that his Government was considering the evacuation of a large number of persons from northern Iraq, including Iraqi Kurds and Assyrians and other employees of non-governmental organizations, for whom the United States was concerned.

The Government of the United States has carried out evacuations involving a large number of such persons, and they were taken from Iraqi territory to Turkish territory and from there to a base on Guam in the Indian Ocean. This is being done, as is well known, under the supervision of officers of the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) who entered Iraq illegally. Some of them entered the country under the cover of non-governmental relief organizations for the purpose of organizing clandestine operations with a view to undermining the national system of government in Iraq. At the same time, John M. Deutch, Director of Central Intelligence, stated in a hearing before the Intelligence Committee of the United States Senate on 19 September 1996 that the CIA was making Iraq a top-priority target and was endeavouring to change Iraq's regime and its leader, President Saddam Hussein.

The introduction of foreigners into northern Iraq by the United States Government under the cover of engaging in humanitarian relief activities, without the approval of the Iraqi Government and the use of Iraqis for the same purpose, for whatever reason, are to be regarded as violations of the norms of international law and of the customary rules governing consular relations. This is all the more true where such foreigners are introduced into the territory of a sovereign State, namely Iraq, for the purpose of undermining its security, territorial integrity and unity and of changing its political regime or recruiting Iraqi citizens for that purpose. Most if not all of the persons in question were CIA officers or those collaborating with them, and they engaged in actions that cannot be characterized as anything less than aggression in accordance with the Definition of Aggression adopted in 1974 by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its twenty-ninth session. It is thus clear that if the Government of the United States of America can conduct itself in such a manner in a case such as this, it cannot but make use of the details involved in the implementation of Security Council resolutions to advance its schemes and plans for aggression by, inter alia, raising problems from time to time.

It has been established in a manner that leaves no room for doubt that the Government of the United States has made use of organizations of an avowedly humanitarian character, such as relief organizations, as a cover for its intelligence agencies and its conspiratorial and destructive schemes. Can it

not be deduced from this how it will use inspection teams for similar purposes and for raising problems between the teams and Iraq?

Relief and humanitarian assistance operations, of whatever kind and in whatever form, including the dispatch of 'volunteers' or 'officials' from international, and non-governmental and other organizations or the employment of persons who are subjects of the country in question, cannot take place without the approval of the State concerned, which is a sovereign State and a Member of the United Nations. Otherwise such activities constitute an intrusion into the essential internal authority of the State and interference in its internal affairs. States that engage in actions of this kind, under any pretext or on any grounds, humanitarian or otherwise, are to be held internationally responsible inasmuch as there are no exceptions to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

The Government of the United States of America, in giving illegal protection to Iraqis who have committed serious crimes against their country and to foreigners (Americans and others) and in introducing them into Iraq illegally in order to achieve illegal goals that jeopardize its security, stability, territorial integrity and political regime, is committing a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and an act of aggression against an independent Member State of the United Nations and is guilty of blatant interference in its internal affairs.

The illegal and unlawful conduct of the Government of the United States of America against Iraq makes the United States an outlaw State that is in violation of international law and custom. Such illegal actions and those who engage in them must be condemned.

We urge you to require the Government of the United States of America and their partners in these acts, which contravene the rules of international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, to halt the illegal undertakings that threaten the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and to halt its interference in the country's internal affairs. The people of Iraq is being subjected to widespread human suffering that has been caused by the maintenance of the blanket embargo against it and which the Government of the United States itself is endeavouring to prolong by various malicious and questionable means.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq